



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

48-HOUR REPORT

12 NOVEMBER 2021

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Los Angeles – Bomb Threat Prompts Evacuation of 3 Buildings at USC

(U) A bomb threat prompted authorities to briefly evacuate three buildings on the University of Southern California (USC) campus yesterday. Los Angeles police and campus public safety officers searched the buildings and declared the buildings safe. The threat came around the same time as bomb threats prompted evacuations at New York University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and after a series of similar threats to Ivy League Schools in the Northeast last week. All threats were ultimately deemed “not credible.”

SOURCE: 11 November 2021, [LA Times](#)

(U) Sacramento – Attorney General Announces Takedown of Oak Park Bloods Street Gang

(U) California Attorney General Rob Bonta announced the results of a six-month multiagency investigation into the Sacramento-based criminal street gang, the Oak Park Bloods, named operation “Sleepwalker.” Members of the gang are allegedly responsible for a series of violent crimes, including homicides, and were identified by the Sacramento Police Department as a significant threat to the community. During the investigation, authorities prevented numerous violent crimes, obtained crucial evidence related to a homicide, and arrested 26 individuals. Additionally, more than 125 firearms were seized, the majority of which were assault weapons and ghost guns.

SOURCE: 10 November 2021, [CA DOJ](#)

(U) San Bernardino – Sheriff's 'Hammer Strike' Yields 34 Arrests, 33,000 Marijuana Plants

(U) San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department reported that since 1 November, its five specialized Marijuana Enforcement Teams in “Operation Hammer Strike” had arrested 34 people and seized various lucrative black-market goods in raids across a dozen locations. The seizures include 79 guns, 33,000 marijuana plants, 8,500 pounds of “processed marijuana”, and \$700,000 in illicit narcotic sales proceeds. Additionally, Investigators eradicated a total of 211 greenhouses during the raids.

SOURCE: 9 November 2021, [Yahoo News](#)

(U) San Francisco – Officers Monitoring Protest on Golden Gate Bridge Injured in Collision

(U) Two California Highway Patrol (CHP) officers and three Golden Gate Bridge workers were injured on Thursday, 11 November, when the two vehicles collided, officials announced. The officers and workers were monitoring a nearby protest of COVID-19 vaccine mandates; however, the crash was not related to the demonstration. Dozens of CHP officers and bridge workers had been acting as a buffer between the traffic on the bridge and the hundreds of protesters. The officers had non-life-threatening injuries and were taken to the hospital, the workers had minor injuries, with one also requiring hospitalization.

SOURCE: 12 November 2021, [Sacramento Bee](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) Texas – Suspected Cartel Member Jose Francisco Paz-Ruiz Arrested

(U) Laredo – US Border Patrol agents together with Webb County Constables arrested cartel member

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Jose Francisco Paz-Ruiz. Paz-Ruiz, a Mexican national, was taken into custody for outstanding warrants and is allegedly a member of the transnational criminal organization known as Cartel Del Noreste. The arrest occurred after deputies attempted to conduct a vehicle stop on Paz-Ruiz and a pursuit ensued. The driver and Paz-Ruiz fled from the vehicle under the Juarez-Lincoln International Bridge and jumped into the Rio Grande River. The driver swam to Mexico, but Paz-Ruiz was arrested and processed accordingly.

SOURCE: 11 November 2021, [News 6](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia – DHS Warns of Increased Online Activity by Terrorist and Extremist Groups

(U) Washington – DHS issued a terror threat bulletin Wednesday warning that al-Qa’ida and Islamic State of Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS)-linked terrorists are ramping up online activity to try to inspire attacks on the US. The bulletin also advised that ideologically motivated domestic extremists "continue to derive inspiration from and obtain operational guidance, including regarding the use of improvised explosive devices and small arms" through online forums. The agency urged communities to be cautious when they get together for large gatherings ahead of the holiday season, but indicated it is not aware of any imminent and credible threat to a specific place in the US.

SOURCE: 10 November 2021, [CBS News](#)

(U) District of Columbia – White House Signs Bill to Tighten US Restrictions on Huawei, ZTE

(U) Washington – President Biden signed legislation yesterday to prevent companies that are deemed security threats from receiving new equipment licenses from US regulators. The Secure Equipment Act of 2021 is the latest effort by the US government to crack down on telecom and tech companies like Huawei Technologies or ZTE Corp tied to foreign governments. The new law requires the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to no longer review or approve any authorization application for equipment that poses an unacceptable risk to national security.

SOURCE: 12 November 2021, [Reuters](#)

(U) District of Columbia – CISA Director to Enlist White-Hat Hackers as Advisers

(U) Washington – On Wednesday, the DHS Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) Director Jen Easterly said white-hat hackers, researchers, and academics who probe widely used software for vulnerabilities and alert developers to security flaws are being invited to join the Cybersecurity Advisory Committee. Members of the committee would find and report vulnerabilities that the government would be obligated to address. Easterly noted that, in the absence of such a mechanism, vulnerabilities could be sold to the highest bidder.

SOURCE: 11 November 2021, [Security InfoWatch](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Afghanistan – Taliban Reportedly Capture 600 ISIS-K Militants Since August

(U) Kabul – A Taliban spokesperson for the General Directorate of Intelligence said Wednesday that they have captured nearly 600 members of the local ISIS affiliate, known as the Islamic State-Khorasan Province (ISIS-K), since returning to power in mid-August. The spokesperson reported that “high-ranking” commanders of ISIS-K were among the detainees and ongoing security operations against the group have killed almost 40 militants. The spokesperson accused the former Afghan government of releasing some 1,800 ISIS-K militants from detention facilities just before the Taliban took over in August and blamed the freed prisoners for the recent uptick in car bombings and violence.

SOURCE: 11 November 2021, [VOAN](#)

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(U) Myanmar – US Journalist Sentenced to 11-years in Prison, Faces Terrorism and Sedition Charges

(U) Naypyidaw – A court in Myanmar sentenced detained US journalist Danny Fenster to the maximum 11-years in prison with hard labor after finding him guilty on several charges, including incitement for allegedly spreading false or inflammatory information. He still faces two additional serious charges in a different court for allegedly violating the counterterrorism law and a statute covering treason and sedition. The US government, human rights groups, press freedom associations, and family members had pressed strongly for Fenster's release. Fenster is the managing editor of the online magazine Frontier Myanmar and has been detained since May.

SOURCE: 12 November 2021, [Associated Press](#)

(U) Yemen – Houthi Forces Breach US Embassy Compound, Detain Local Employees

(U) Sanaa – Yemeni security employees of the US government have been detained after the compound that once housed the American Embassy was breached by Iran-backed Houthi forces. Most of those initially detained have been released, but the rebels continue to hold Yemeni security personnel of the embassy who had been guarding the outside of the facility. State Department called on Houthi forces to "immediately vacate" the embassy compound and to "return all seized property."

SOURCE: 11 November 2021, [Washington Post](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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